

# **Exploring Missouri's Level of Care (LOC) Eligibility Process and Criteria**

**May 5, 2018**

# Activity: Identify Challenges

- QUESTION – When thinking about the current LOC process and criteria, what are the three to five most significant challenges or issues experienced by the populations you serve?
- Write one idea per notecard
  - No less than 3 cards
  - No more than 5 cards
  - Please write legibly



# Report Out



# Missouri's Need for Technical Assistance

- Medicaid under the LTSS program pays 63% of all institutional care for the state of Missouri
- MO spends around 58% towards HCBS
- 50% increase in elderly needs in approximately the next 15 years
- Host of other concerns like from notecards

# Begin with the End in Mind

Overarching Goal : Create a new Level of Care (LOC) model that:

1. Ensure **access** to care for **most in need** of HCBS providing **least restrictive** community setting as long as **safely possible**
2. Use **limited state resources** on those most in need of HCBS compared to more costly facility placement.
3. Ensure individuals able **to live in the community** are not inappropriately placed in a more restrictive setting.

# Technical Assistance (TA) Scope

1. National landscape scan
  - Deeper dives into specific states of interest
2. Stakeholder engagement
3. Co-create the new model
4. Summarize key learnings and best practices

# LOC Refresher

- Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) is single largest payer of health care in the U.S.
- LOC mandated by CMS, but states have latitude what specific eligibility criteria should be
  - Covers both institutional care and HCBS

# National Landscape Findings

- Conduct a national scan of existing LOC research
- Evaluate methodology, tools, and processes in all the states
  - LOC eligibility criteria
  - Functional assessment types used
  - Assessors/Determiners of services and supports
  - Scoring systems
- Research strategy
  - Phone calls, review of statutes/regulations, published reports and findings, website scan
- Provided a 50-state library of LOC eligibility criteria

# Overall Discoveries

- Length and depth of findings varied significantly among states
- No common nomenclature
- Everyone is “unique”
- Apprehensive of judgment or oversight
- Lack of evidence-based practice or research
- Eligibility criteria had shared “buckets” with a great degree of variability

# What Tools Are Leveraged?

- Initial, Specialized and Cross-Cutting tools
- Tools include homegrown tools (LOCET), national assessments (interRAI), or customized tool (ArPath)
  - interRAI most commonly used tool in U.S. and beyond
  - Trending upwards, reports of many states exploring/transitioning
- Length and complexity of tool used varied significantly
- Paper, electronic/online form, web-based software

# What are the Criteria Buckets?

- Six Shared Buckets
  1. ADLs – Commonly includes across all states
  2. IADLs – Half of states include
  3. Clinical – Two-third of states include
  4. Medical – Not medication driven
  5. Safety – One quarter use, trending upwards
  6. Cognition – Majority separate mental health, dementia, IDD

# Activities of Daily Living Indicators

- Transfers
- Locomotion
- Bed mobility
- Upper dressing
- Lower dressing
- Eating
- Toileting
- Personal care
- Bathing

# Intellectual Activities of Daily Living Indicators

- Grocery shopping
- Laundry
- Light housework
- Meal preparation
- Medication management
- Money management
- Transportation
- Using phone to accomplish tasks
- Bill paying
- Scheduling medical appointments
- Other shopping tasks

# Clinical Indicators

- Assistive devices
- Treatments and procedures
  - MO uses this label for “rehabilitative” below
- Rehabilitative services (long-term needs)
  - Tube feeding
  - Wound care
  - Ventilator care

# Medical Indicators

- Medical history
- Mental health history
- Diagnoses
- Vital signs
- Medical conditions
- Special treatments

# Safety Indicators

- Environmental factors/problems
- Living conditions
- Risk evidence
- “But for” factor and impact on LOC

# Cognition Indicators

- Behavior
- Communication
- Sensory orientation
- Assessment of social situation
- Expression

# Who Assesses and Who Determines?

## Assessors include:

- Area Agencies on Aging and Disability (AAADs)
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)
- Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)
- Nursing facility/hospital case managers
- State employees
- Independent contractors
- Certified assessors

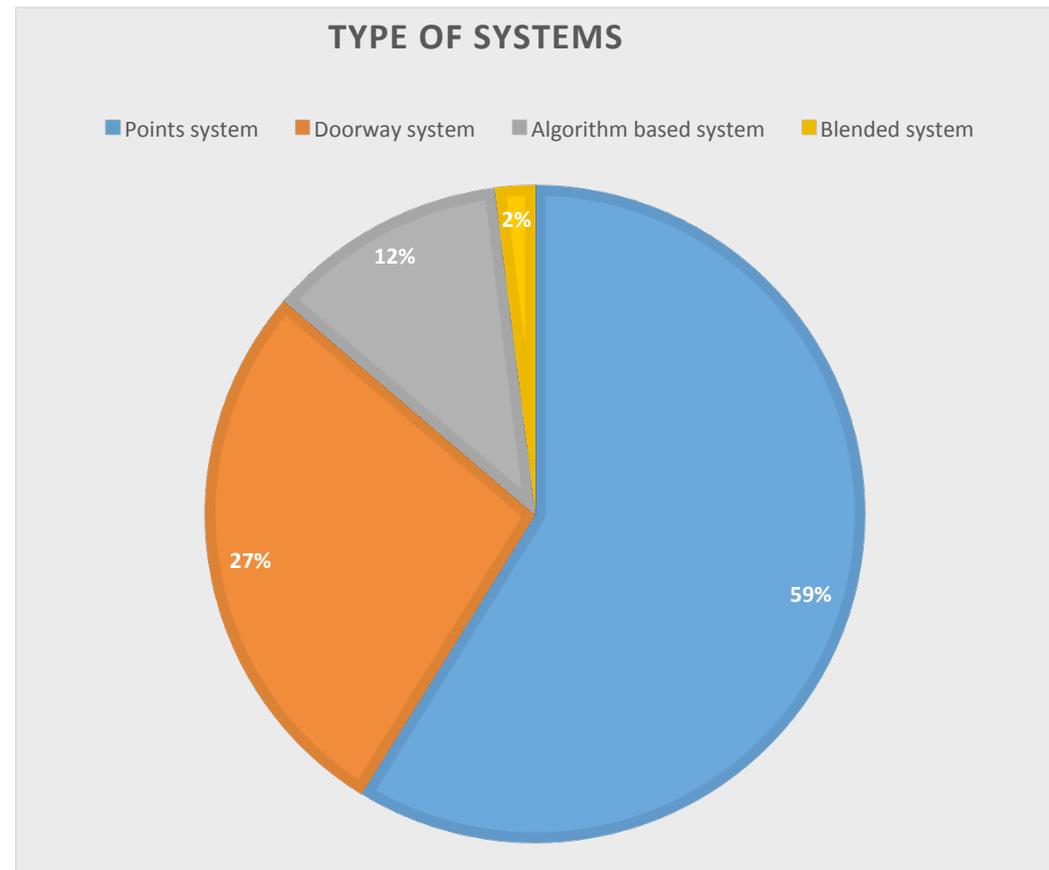
## Determiners include:

- Physicians
- Registered nurses
- Certified assessors

# How Does Someone Meet Eligibility?

## Four Typical Scoring Systems

- Points
- Doorway
- Algorithm-based
- Blended



# Questions on National Scan?



# Activity: The Future State



If you could wiggle your nose and make it magically happen, what changes would you like to see implemented in the LOC process in Missouri?

# Report Out



# Bucket Challenge

**Have thoughts you haven't shared?**

**Write down your idea or suggestion for improvement and  
place it in the appropriate criteria bucket.**

# Wrap-Up & Next Steps

- Identified five states for “deep dives”
  - Arkansas, Indiana, Louisiana, North Carolina, Wisconsin
  - “Trusted discovery”
- Continue stakeholder engagement
  - Summer meetings to explore new LOC models
- Co-create new model based on feedback and findings
- Project complete by November 2018

# An After-Thought

## Contact information

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